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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/696,095

10/25/2000

Mitsuharu Kamiya

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3189

1933 7590 05/08/2007
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EXAMINER

CHAMPAGNE, DONALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/08/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/696,095

Applicant(s)

KAMIYA, MITSU HARU

Examiner

Donald L. Champagne

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1 Feb 2007 and 29 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1 February 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 57, 58, 60 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bresnan et al. (US005873073A).
5. Bresnan et al. teaches (independent claims 57 and 60) A printing information distribution apparatus (*system 5*, Fig. 1 and col. 3 lines 11-43) which is adapted to be connected to information terminals (the *initiating node*) and printers (**36**) located in different places (col. 17 lines 11-14), through a network, the apparatus comprising:

user information storage means (*memory 20*) for storing user information regarding information terminals (the *initiating node, subsystem 10*) which are permitted to access the printing information distributing apparatus;

printing reservation information storage means (*memory 20*) for storing printing reservation information (where "printing reservation information" is interpreted as the established or defined print job (defined *mailing*, col. 2 line 22);

authenticating means for acquiring, when one of the information terminals accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network, identification information indicating a user of the one of the information terminals accessing the printing information distribution apparatus, and for performing authentication of the acquired identification information with reference to the user information storage means (col. 15 lines 31-38 and 59-63);

printing reservation means for (i) transmitting a printing reservation screen image (*mailing Information screen*, col. 6 lines 31-43) for use in reservation for printing desired printing information to the information terminal, and (col. 8 lines 40-62) for use in selection of a print medium by a user, when the authenticating means determines that the acquired identification information is stored in the user information storage means, (ii) receiving printing reservation information of the desired printing information from said one of the information terminals (col. 2 lines 21-29), the printing reservation information including a name of the desired printing information, a printing medium type indicating a type of medium for printing, a number of prints, and the print medium selected by a user, and (iii) storing the received printing reservation information and the acquired identification information in the printing reservation information storage means (col. 9 lines 9-11), in association with the received printing reservation information and the acquired identification information;

generating *verification copy* (col. 14 lines 48-51), which reads on printer authenticating means for authenticating one of the printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network (col. 17 lines 38-46 and col. 18 lines 22-28);

identification information (*verification copy*, col. 14 lines 48-51) fetching means for fetching identification information which indicates a user of the one of the information terminals accessing the printing information distribution apparatus and is transmitted from

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said one of the printers through the network when the printer authenticating means authenticates said one of the printers;

printing information generating means for (i) retrieving from the printing reservation information storage means the stored printing reservation information based on the identification information fetched by the identification information fetching means (because successful receipt of the *verification copy* enables delivery of the job with confidence), (ii) reading the printing reservation information associated with the fetched identification information from the printing reservation information storage means, and (iii) generating printing information based on the read printing reservation information (col. 15 lines 8-11 and 28-30); and

printing information transmitting means (*subsystem 30*, col. 3 lines 32-38) for transmitting, through the network, the printing information generated by the printing information generating means to said one of the printers which accesses the printing information distribution apparatus, and causing said one of the printers to print out the desired printing information (col. 16 lines 7-17, where *the mailing will be processed as per the order* reads on causing said one of the printers to print out the desired printing information).

6. Bresnan et al. also teaches claims 58 and 61 (col. 5 lines 60-65, with over-the-counter service, col. 17 lines 5-10 and col. 18 lines 11-19).
7. Claims 59 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bresnan et al. in view of Denman (US005737729A). Bresnan et al. does not teach that each of the printers includes a money entry device. Denman teaches that each of the printers include a money entry device (col. 2 lines 46-48). Because the addition of Denman (col. 1 lines 58-63 and col. 2 lines 27-28) would automate and therefore make more efficient the over-the-counter service taught by Bresnan et al. (col. 17 lines 5-11), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add the teachings of Denman to those of Bresnan et al.

Conclusion

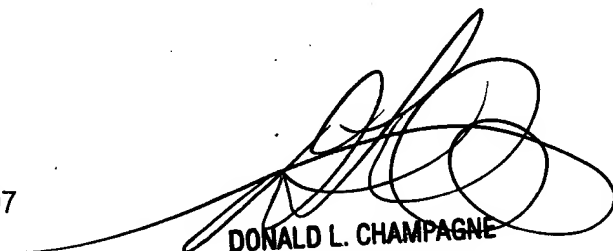
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Champagne whose telephone number is 571-272-6717. The

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examiner can normally be reached from 9:30 AM to 8 PM ET, Monday to Thursday. The examiner can also be contacted by e-mail at donald.champagne@uspto.gov, and *informal* fax communications (i.e., communications not to be made of record) may be sent directly to the examiner at 571-273-6717.

9. The examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on 571-272-6724. The fax phone number for all *formal* fax communications is 571-273-8300.
10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).
11. **ABANDONMENT** – If examiner cannot by telephone verify applicant's intent to continue prosecution, the application is subject to abandonment six months after mailing of the last Office action. The agent, attorney or applicant point of contact is responsible for assuring that the Office has their telephone number. Agents and attorneys may verify their registration information including telephone number at the Office's web site, www.uspto.gov. At the top of the home page, click on Site Index. Then click on Agent & Attorney Roster in the alphabetic list, and search for your registration by your name or number.

3 May 2007



DONALD L. CHAMPAGNE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Donald L. Champagne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622